GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:226
ANSWERED ON:02.02.2017
Unused Airstrips
Patel Shri Prahlad Singh

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to revamp the existing unused airstrips for starting the commercial operations from there;

(b) if so, the number of airstrips lying unused in the country and the expected expenditure for restoring them in order to start commercial operations from those airstrips; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. There are total 476 airports/airstrips in the Country belonging to various agencies viz Airports Authority of India (AAI), State Governments, Army, Navy, Indian Air Force (IAF), Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), private developers etc. Out of total 476 airports, only 75 airports (70 AAI and 5 others) have scheduled flight operations whereas other airports are either un-served or under-served. Ministry of Civil Aviation in the newly approved National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016, has provision for promotion of regional Connectivity by way of revival of un-served and under-served airports/airstrips. Revival of such airports is to be "demand-driven", depending on firm demand from the airline operators and where the State Government agrees to provide various concessions envisaged in the Policy. There are certain areas of the country where airstrips/airports are un-served or under-served as viability of the operations has always been a matter of concern. In order to address the issue of connectivity, the Policy provides for development of airstrips/airports, without insisting on their financial viability at an indicative cost of Rs.50 crores to Rs.100 crores.;